

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Nishimura, T. et al.

Serial No.: Herewith

Group Art Unit: TBD

Filed: June 27, 2003

Examiner: TBD

Title: METHOD FOR PRODUCTION OF ACRYLIC ACID

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination and prior to the calculation of the filing fee, please amend this application as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend claim 5 as follows:

(5) (Amended) A method for the production of a polyacrylic acid (salt), characterized by producing said polyacrylic acid (salt) by using the acrylic acid of high purity obtained at the step (g) set forth in claim 3.

Please add new claim 7 as follows:

(7) (New) A method for the production of a polyacrylic acid (salt), characterized by producing said polyacrylic acid (salt) by using the acrylic acid of high purity obtained at the step (g) set forth in claim 4.